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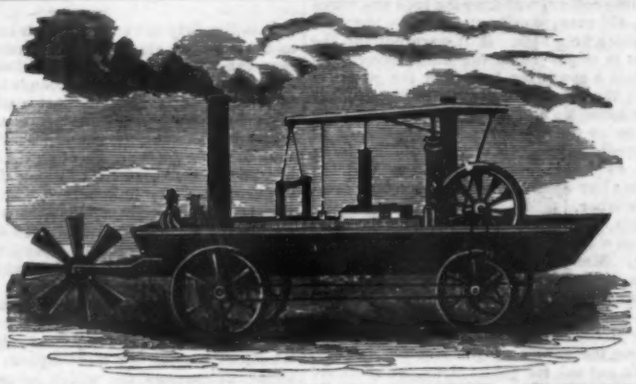

FIRST AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE—EVAN'S ORUKTOR AMPHIBOLOS, 1804.

ANECDOTES OF THE STEAM ENGINE.

No. VIII.

A host of ingenious men in England with Watt at their head, were now lending their energies to perfect the steam engine, with a view to applying it to manufacturing purposes. The great improvements introduced by Arkwright and Cartwright in spinning and weaving cotton, gave employment to a great number of engines, and their demand for various purposes was increasing. The American experimenters were engaged in applying it to the propelling of boats and land carriages. Among the latter were Fitch, Rumsey, Evans, Stevens, Livingston and Fulton.

Whatever were the reasons which induced Rumsey to desist from his attempts in America to move a boat by a steam engine, they were not sufficient to convince him that better success could not attend a trial of a similar mechanism on an English river; for subsequently he succeeded in inducing a wealthy American merchant in London, and some others equally sanguine, to disburse the expense of another experiment. He spent nearly two years in preparations, and was on the eve of putting the last hand to his steam-boat, when he died. The vessel, however, was got afloat on the Thames in 1793 and sailed against wind and tide at the rate of four knots an hour. The machinery was the same as that constructed on the Potomac. The pump, two feet in diameter, wrought by a steam engine, forced a quantity of water up through the keel; the valve was then shut by a return of the stroke, which at the same time forced the water through a channel or pipe about six inches square, out at the stern under the rudder, which had a less depth than usual, to permit the exit of the water. The impetus of this water, forced through the square channel against the exterior water, acted as an impelling power upon the vessel.

The project of Genevois, to impel boats by an oar, after the model of those exhibited by nature, was revived by the earl of Stanhope, in England, in 1795; the paddles made to open and shut, like the feet of a duck, were placed under the quarters of the vessel; the engine which gave them motion was of great power, and acted on machinery that produced a horizontal stroke; but notwithstanding the diminution of surface which was produced by the conformation of the oars, the reaction of their being drawn backwards was so great, that the flat bottomed vessel with which the experiment was made, did not move with a velocity exceeding three miles per hour.

In the year 1797 Chancellor Livingston made some experiments in building a steam boat on the Hudson, with the assistance of a person of the name of Nisbet, who went from England to America for the purpose. Livingston applied to the legislature of the state of New York for a privilege to navigate boats by fire or steam, in order to indemnify him for the great outlay, in case he should be successful. It produced much merriment at the time, and was considered the humbug of the day. The idea of navigating the Hudson by steam was considered a legitimate subject for ridicule, and when the members felt particularly *funny*, they would call up the steam boat bill, that they might divert themselves at the expense of the project and its advocates. A bill was passed however, granting him the privileges he asked, on condition that he produced a vessel within a year whose progress should not be less than four miles an hour. The experimental boat of thirty tons burden, propelled by a steam engine, being on trial found incompetent to fulfil the condition of the grant, it became obsolete, and Livingston gave up the project.

It appears by his own statement, that so early as 1785, the ingenious Oliver Evans had published a description of a mode of driving boats by steam. Untoward circumstances prevented him from carrying his plan into effect until 1804; when he produced a practicable steam boat. While an apprentice he had conceived the idea of producing power from steam, being entirely ignorant that any experiments had ever been made on the subject. After laboring some time without success to apply the power, he met with a work describing the old atmospheric engine, and was astonished to observe that they had so far erred as to use the steam only to form a vacuum; to apply the mere pressure of the atmosphere, instead of applying the elastic pow.. of the steam for original motion; a power which he supposed was irresistible. In 1786 he had so far satisfied himself of the practicability of his plans, as to be induced to apply to the legislature of Pennsylvania for the exclusive right to use his improvements in flour mills and steam wagons in that state. The committee, he says, heard him very patiently while he described the mill improvements, but his representations concerning steam wagons made them think him insane. They protected the mill improvements, but took no notice of the steam wagons. He endeavored during several years to find some one to furnish capital to build a steam wagon, showing his models and drawings, and explaining his views of steam; but could find no one who would risk the experiment; indeed very few could understand his principles. At length in 1804, the board of health of Philadelphia ordered him to build a machine for cleaning docks. This presented him an opportunity to show that his engine could propel both land and water carriages. When the work was finished, it consisted of a large scow, with an engine of five horse power on board, to work the machinery to raise the mud into lighters. Wheels were put under this with wooden axels; and though the weight was equal to two hundred barrels of flour, and the whole prepared for this temporary purpose, and attended with great friction, the burden was transported to the Schuylkill, one mile and a half, with ease. Here a paddle wheel was fixed at the stern, and it was taken down the river to the Delaware, and up that river to the city. Evans, who was a clever man with a plain name, considering that a sounding cognomen would do no harm to a simple machine, christened his mud-scraper the *Oruktor Amphibolos*. She was thirty feet long and twelve broad, with a chain of buckets to bring up the mud, and drew nineteen inches of water. The exhibition was sufficient to show that it was practicable to navigate the river by steam, but the time for it had not yet come. His engine was on the high pressure principle, of a construction different from any other at that time known.

A Mr. Samuel Jackson who lived on the Mississippi, met with Evans about the year 1785, and in a subsequent correspondence declared that at that time Evans had described to him the principles of the steam engine, and also explained to him *his plan for propelling boats with paddle wheels, describing the very kind of wheels now used for this purpose; and that he then declared his intention of applying his engine to this particular object, as soon as his pecuniary circumstances would permit!* Unfortunately Evans never found a capitalist to assist his experiments, as was the case with Watt and Fulton. A further account of him and his inventions may be found in the first and second numbers of this papers, together with his portrait.

THE METALS—No. IV.

IRON.

We come now to speak of that metal to which, of all others, we owe the most, and without which we would have yet remained in a state nearly bordering on barbarism. No person is so ignorant of its use as to suppose it possible, that without it, even with every other facility, that man should make any progress in the arts of civilization. For every purpose, in every art, however simple, it performs its part, and is as indispensable to the lady who embroiders her scarf of "woven winds," as to the sturdy woodman or the ship builder. It is the best friend of man, his companion in every stage of civilization, from the rough ploughshare to the complicated steam ship. Iron is extremely difficult to obtain from the ore, and would even now be very scarce were it not that art and science have obviated most of the difficulties, and rendered the process easy, in comparison to what it was in former times. Hence it is, as we have before remarked, that among barbarous and semi-civilized nations, iron is not to be found, while the precious metals abound. The estimation in which such a people hold this substance, and the eagerness with which, when a ship arrives, they inquire for it, might convey

a useful lesson to those who are accustomed to regard it as of little value. A piece of iron among such a people is esteemed priceless, and a hatchet valued higher than its weight in gold or gems.

The date of the discovery of iron, though it probably extends back to a great distance in antiquity, is nevertheless involved in obscurity. The art of working iron, however, was probably first introduced into Britain by Julius Cæsar; and a spot is now pointed out to the traveler, where a furnace was worked for six or seven centuries, and the rude state of the art at that period may be inferred from the fact that the mass of cinders accumulated in so long a time, is not greater than would collect around some modern furnaces in a few months.

Iron combines all the requisites for use and strength, ductility, malleability and tenacity. An iron wire, therefore, will sustain twice as much weight as any other metalic wire of the same diameter.

The process of reducing it from the ore will be rendered more intelligible by the following extract from an entertaining and very instructive work, entitled "*The Results of Machinery*," than we could possibly make it. It speaks of the making of a knife:

"The man who has a lump of iron ore," says the author, "has certainly a knife in the heart of it; but no mere labor can work it out. Shape it as you may, it is not a knife, or steel, or even iron,—it is iron ore; and, dress it as you will, it would not cut better than a brickbat, certainly not so well as the shell or bone of the savage.

"There must be knowledge, before any thing can be done in this case. We must know what is mixed with the iron, and how to separate it. We cannot do it by mere labor, as we can chip away the wood, and get out the bowl; and therefore we have recourse to fire.

"In the ordinary mode of using it, fire would make matters worse. If we put the material into the fire, on a stone, we should probably receive it back, as slag or dross. We must therefore prepare our fuel. Our fire must be hot, very hot; but if our fuel be wood, we must burn it into charcoal, or, if it be coal, into coke.

"The charcoal or coke answers for one purpose; but we have still the clay or other earth mixed with our iron,—and how are we to get rid of that? Pure clay, or pure lime, or pure earth of flint, remains stubborn in our hottest fires; but when they are mixed, in a proper proportion, the one melts the other.

"So charcoal or coke, the ironstone or iron ore, and limestone, are put into a furnace; the charcoal or coke is lighted at the bottom, and wind is blown into the furnace, at the bottom, also. If that wind is not sent in by machinery, and very powerful machinery, too, the effect will be little, and the work of man great; but still it can be done.

"In this furnace, the lime and clay, or earth of flint, unite, and from a sort of glass, which floats upon the surface. At the same time, the carbon, or pure charcoal, of the fuel, with the assistance of the limestone, mixes with the stone, or ore, and melts the iron, which, being heavier than the other matters, runs down to the bottom of the furnace, and remains there till the workmen lets it out by a hole, made at the bottom of the furnace for that purpose, and plugged with sand. When the workman knows there is enough melted, or when the appointed time arrives, he displaces the plug of sand with an iron rod, and the melted iron runs out like water, and is conveyed into furrows made in sand, where it cools, and the pieces formed in the principal furrows are called 'sows,' and those in the furrows branching from them, 'pigs.' A single furnace will in this way make seventy-five tons of iron, in a week; or as much iron, in the year, as will make the blades of about one hundred and forty millions of knives, at an ounce to each blade.

"But great as is the advantage of this first step of the iron-making, the iron is not yet fit for a knife. It is cast iron. It cannot be worked by the hammer, or sharpened to a cutting edge; and so it must be made into malleable iron, a kind of iron, which, instead of melting in the fire, will soften, and admit of being hammered into shape, or united by the progress of welding.

"The methods, by which this is accomplished, vary; but they in general consist in keeping the iron melted in a furnace, and stirring it with an iron rake, till the blast of air in the furnace burns the greater part of the carbon out of it. By this means, it becomes tough; and, without cooling, is taken from the furnace, and repeatedly beaten by large hammers, or squeezed through large rollers, until it becomes the bar iron, of which so much use is made, in every art of life.

"Bringing it into this state requires great force; and the unaided strength of all the men in Britain could not make all the iron which is at present made, though they did nothing else. Machinery is therefore resorted to; and water-wheels, steam-engines, and all sorts of powers, are set to work, in moving hammers, turning rollers, and drawing rods and wires through holes, till every workman can have the particular form which he wants. If it were not for the machinery that is employed in the manufacture, no man could obtain a spade for less than the price of a year's labor; the yokes of a horse would cost more than the horse himself; and the farmer would have to return to wooden ploughshares, and hoes made of sticks with crooked ends. There would be *labor* enough, then, as we have already shown: but the people could not live upon the labor only; they must have *profitable* labor.

"After all this, the iron is not yet fit for a knife,—at least for such a knife as an Englishman may buy for a shilling. Many nations would, however, be thankful for a little bit of it, and nations, too, in whose countries there is no want of iron ore. But they have no knowledge of the method of making iron, and have no furnaces of machinery. When our ships sail among the people of the Eastern islands, those people do not ask for gold. 'Iron, iron!' is the call; and he, who can exchange his best commody for a rusty nail, or a bit of iron hoop, is a fortunate individual.

"We are not satisfied with that, in the best form, which is a treasure to those people, in the worst. We must have a knife, not of iron, but of *steel*, a substance that will bear a keen edge, without either breaking or bending. In order to get that, we must again change the nature of our material.

"How is that to be done? The oftener that iron is heated and hammered, the softer and more ductile it becomes; and as the heating and hammering forced the carbon out of it, if we give it the carbon back again, we shall harden it; but it happens that we also give it other properties, by restoring its carbon, when the iron has once been in a ductile state.

"For this purpose, bars or pieces of iron are buried in powdered charcoal, covered up in a vessel, and kept at a red heat for a greater or less number of hours, according to the object disired. There are niceties in the process, which it is not necessary to explain, that produce the peculiar quality of steel, as distinguished from cast iron. If the operation of heating the iron in charcoal is continued too long, or the heat is too great, the iron becomes cast steel, and cannot be welded; but if it is not melted in the operation, it can be worked with the hammer, in the same manner as iron.

"In each case, however, it has acquired the property upon which the keenness of the knife depends; and the chief difference, between the cast steel and the steel that can bear to be hammered, is, that cast steel takes a keener edge, but is more easily broken.

"The property which it has acquired is that of bearing to be tempered. If it be made very hot, and plunged into cold water, and kept there till it is quite cooled, it is so hard that it will cut iron, but it is brittle. In this state, the workman brightens the surface, and lays the steel upon a piece of hot iron, and holds it to the fire till it becomes of a color which he knows from experience is a test of the proper state of the process. Then he plunges it again into water, and it has the degree of hardness that he wants.

"The grinding a knife, and the polishing it, even when it has acquired the requisite properties of steel, if they were not done by machinery, would cost more than the whole price of a knife, upon which machinery is used. A travelling knifegrinder, with his treadle and wheels, has a machine, but not a very perfect one. The Sheffield knifemaker grinds the knife, at first, upon wheels of immense size, turned by water or steam, and moving so quickly, that they appear to stand still; the eye cannot follow the motion. With these aids, the original grinding and polishing cost scarcely any thing; while the travelling knifegrinder charges two-pence for the labor of himself and his wheel, in just sharpening it.

"As iron is with us almost as plentiful as stone, we do not think much about it. But there is a great deal to be done, much thinking and inventing, before so simple a thing as a shilling knife could be procured; and without the thinking and the inventing, all the strength of all the men that ever lived never could procure it; and without the machinery to lighten the labor, no ingenuity could furnish it at a thousand times the expence."

In our next, we shall resume this subject, and as this is the most important of the metals, and one in which our country is especially rich, we shall treat particularly of American iron, our resources, our wealth in that metal, &c.

BE SOMETHING.

It is the duty of every one to take some active part as actor on the stage of life. Some seem to think they can vegetate, as it were, without being anything in particular. Man was not made to rust out his life. It is expected he should "act well his part." He must be something. He has a work to perform, which it is his duty to attend to. We are not placed here to grow up, pass through the various stages of life, and then die, without having done anything for the benefit of the human race. It is a principle in the creed of the Mahometans that every one should have a trade. No Christian doctrine could be better than that. Is a man to be brought up in idleness? Is he to live upon the wealth which his ancesters have acquired by frugal industry? Is he placed here to pass through life like an automaton? Has he nothing to perform as a citizen of the world? Does he owe nothing to his country as an inhabitant? A man who does nothing is a mere cipher. He does not fulfil the obligations for which he was sent into the world, and when he dies, he has not finished the work that was given him to do. He is a mere blank in creation. Some are born with riches and honors upon their heads. But does it follow that they have nothing to do in their career through life? There are certain duties for every one to perform. *Be something*. Don't live like a hermit and die unregretted.

See that young man: no matter what are his circumstances, if he has no particular business to pursue, he will never accomplish much. Perhaps he has a father abundantly able to support him. Perhaps that father has labored hard to obtain a competence that is sufficient for his sons to live in idleness. Can they go abroad with any degree of self-complacency, squandering away the money which their fathers have earned by hard labor? No. No one who has the proper feelings of a citizen, who wishes to be ranked among the useful members of society, would live such a life.

Be something. Don't be a drone. You may rely upon your present possessions, or on your future prospects, but those riches may fly away, or other hopes may be blighted, and if you have no place of your own, in such a case, ten to one you find your path beset with thorns. Want may come upon you before you are aware of it, and having no profession you find yourself in anything but an enviable condition. It is therefore important that you should *be something*. Don't depend upon Fortune, for she is a fickle support, which often fails when you lean upon her with the greatest confidence. Trust to your own exertions.

Be something. Pursue that vocation for which you are fitted by nature, pursue it faithfully and diligently. You have a part to act, and the honor in performing that part depends upon yourself. It is sickening to us to see a parcel of idle boys hanging around a father, spending the money which he has earned by his industry, without attempting to do any thing for themselves. *Be something*, should be their motto. Every one is capable of learning some "art, trade, or mystery," and can earn a competence for himself. He should *be something*, and not bring down the gray hairs of his father with sorrow to the grave. He should learn to depend upon himself. Idle boys living upon a parent without any profession, or without any employment, are illy qualified for good members of society. And we regret to say that it is too often the case that it is the parent's fault that they are thus brought up. They should be taught to *be something*, to know how to provide for themselves in case of necessity, to act well their part, and they will reap the honor which therein lies.—*Bost. Transcript.*

AN HOUR IN A POWDER MILL.

The Pittsburgh Powder Mills are situated on the North bank of the Monongahela about two and a half miles from the city. For the purpose of lessening the disasters attending explosion, the buildings cover a large extent of ground, and each of the many processes to which the material is subject before it is turned in the form with which the world is but too familiar,

is performed in a separate building. These buildings are of stone, and are connected together by a railway.

But to begin at the beginning. Good gunpowder, such as Mr. Watson makes, requires good charcoal; young and sound wood is required, the water maple being the most desirable. Of these Mr. Watson has large plantations which yield what wood he requires, besides furnishing a considerable number of young trees to the citizens for ornamental purposes. There are also on the premises plantations for sycamore for hoop-poles, which yield about 5,000 per year per quarter of an acre. From the plantations we went to the steam engine. And here the dread of fire, which habit has made a second nature to the powdermaker, has suggested a number of ingenious contrivances to prevent its coming in contract with the "villanous saltpetre."

The smoke from the fires under the boilers is conveyed under ground some 300 feet, and then by a chimney 60 feet high it is carried off, at a supposed safe distance. In directly the opposite direction the steam is carried a considerable distance under ground to the engine, which is distant from the place where the last processes—which by its aid the powder undergoes, some 700 feet. The engine has 6 boilers attached to it, each 30 inches in diameter, and 22 feet 8 inches long, and consumes about 45 bushels of coal per day.

The wood is converted into charcoal by being burned in large cast iron retorts, and the gas that is evolved is conveyed by pipes into the fire under the retort by which one third of the fuel which would otherwise be necessary, is saved. The pyroligneous acid which the wood contains, and which this process evolves, it is the purpose of Mr. Watson to distil into vinegar, as soon as his arrangements for that purpose can be effected.

We followed the charcoal into the "compounding house." Here, after having been crushed between rollers, it is placed in a large hollow cast iron globe, in which are a considerable number of small brass balls; these globes are made to revolve rapidly, which speedily reduces it to an impalpable powder. It is then put with the other ingredients, in the proportion of 15 of charcoal, 10 of sulpher, and 75 of nitre, into a "mixing barrel," which is made ro revolve 36 times per minute.

From the mixing barrel it is taken to the "mill-house," where 4 large rollers of cast iron, weighing 250 lbs. each, of the shape of mill-stones, placed on end, chase each other round a cast iron circle weighing 70,000 lbs. Under the rollers it is crushed for about five hours, and then it is taken to the "press-room." In the press-room it is put in layers between cloths and boards alternately, and subjected to the immense pressure of a hydraulic press. This is done to condense the powder into a solid substance. The cakes or slabs are then taken to another building and passed through a pair of coarsely grooved rollers, which break it into small lumps. This is the first process of "graining."

These lumps are then placed on shelves in a room heated by steam for the purpose of being partially dried, when they are again passed through various rollers, until the desired "grain" is obtained. From the rollers the gunpowder, as it may now be termed, passes through a hopper in a revolving wire cylinder, the different degrees of fineness in the length of which, screen it into as many kinds of powder; the finest, which is mere dust, is taken back to be re-worked.

The remainder is placed in barrels, about 250 lbs. in each, which are made rapidly to revolve for the purpose of "glazing" it. But one operation now remains, and that is the final drying, which is effected in the manner which we have before described. It is then taken to the packinghouse, and from that to the "magazine," which is a fire-proof building at a long distance from the rest of the works.—*Pittsburgh Advocate.*

LAKE GEORGE.

Lies mostly in the county of Warren, and for some ditance forms the dividing line between the above county and Washington, and is elevated 243 feet above the tide waters of the Hudson. This justly celebrated lake is 36 miles long, running nearly north and south, and from 2 to 3 miles wide, surrounded by high and picturesque hills, sometimes rising to mountain height; it is dotted with numerous islands, said to count as many as there are days in the year; some of considerable size, and cultivated; while others are only a barren rock, rising majestically out of the surrounding waters. *Diamond Island*, near the village of Caldwell, is celebrated for its beautiful quartz crystals, which in shape and brilliancy resemble pure diamonds. The wild and romantic scenery of this lake is unrivalled in the United States, and stands pre-eminent for its charming beauties. A tourist makes the following remarks:—"Time would fail us to enumerate the points of attraction on the way. The remains of Fort George and Fort William Henry at the head of the lake, must not be passed without a visit. Neither must you leave the Lake House, till in the quiet hour of twilight, the old rusty gun has been fired, and you have heard the echo, which is sent back from one mountain top to another, till the sound seems to have died away, and then have it revive and reverberate again as though another explosion had suddenly taken place. Every foot of ground along the shores, and even the water itself possesses vast interest. The bed of the lake is a handsome yellowish sand, and the water is so pure and transparent, as to render the bottom visible from 30 to 40 feet. Here the delicious salmon trout, that weigh from 12 to 20 pounds, are seen in their frolicksome mood, sporting with each other, and inviting the bait of the angler." Silver trout, brook trout, pike, pickeral, perch, and several other kinds of fresh water fish, are here taken in abundance. Travellers on the tour from the Springs to Canada, should not fail to visit Lake George, or as it is sometimes more romantically called, Horicon; by the French called Lac Sacrament, on account of the purity of its waters. The road passes through the village of Glen's Falls, a place of much interest to every lover of natural scenery; thence by a good stage road to the *Lake House*, at the village of Caldwell. A new steamer, called the "William Caldwell," runs from the landing at this place to the foot of the lake, where stages are in readiness to convey passengers to the steamboat landing at Fort Ticonderoga, on Lake Champlain, where commodious passage boats on their route from Whitehall to Burlington and St. Johns, stop daily, during the season of navigation.—*Disturnell's Gazetteer.*

KEESEVILLE.

Village, and post office, Au Sable and Chesterfield, Clinton and Essex counties, is situated on both sides of the Au Sable river, 4 miles west of Port Kent. It contains about 2,000 inhabitants, 300 dwelling houses, 1 Congregational, 1 Baptist, 1 Methodist and 1 Roman Catholic church, an incorporated academy, 1 banking house, 2 taverns, and 18 stores and groceries. The water power at this place is very great, and advantageously used by several manufacturing establishments. The "Keeseville Manufacturing Company" is chartered, with a paid capital of $40,000: they own, on the north side of the river, an extensive water power, on which is situated a forge with three fires, a rolling mill and nail factory, which manufacture into roll iron and nails about 1000 tons of iron annually. The "Keeseville Woollen and Cotton Company" is also chartered with a paid capital of $30,000: they own on the south side a large factory building, to which is attached a drying house and a dye house, all built of stone in the most substantial manner. There are also 2 flouring mills, 4 extensive saw mills, which make annually about half a million of market boards; 1 furnace and a machine shop, 1 plaster mill, 1 brewery, 1 large wheel-wright shop, 1 tannery and 1 printing office, together with most every other kind of mechanic work shops.—*Ib.*

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

The following is the state of the market at Pittsburgh, Pa., according to the *Intelligencer*. It will answer as well for this region.

Remarks.—Notwithstanding it is spring-time, business is very dull. Articles of all kinds remain in first hands. Money cannot be had for any extensive operations. The only parties that we notice doing any thing at all, are the rivers. Their materials are going off pretty fast, but the *current* of their operations is smooth, and their course is confined by the Banks.

Apes.—Plenty in town, but not in demand. The dandy Apes make the best appearance, but the Jack-an-apes are not scarce.

Ashes.—Plenty in the streets.

Bagging.—Young gentlemen with tender beards have got *sacks* in any quantity.

Belles.—Still continue to make a noise, especially about church and meal time.

Brandy.—Demand falling off. It is considered to go *down*, amazingly with purchasers, but holders are generally *high*.

Beaux—Generally are pretty *tight*-laced.

Bread—is *rising*.

Butter—Clean, is in demand.

Bustles—are still kept behind.

Boots—are *high*—in the heel, and *tight* across the toes.

Corns—there is no demand for them.

Conscience—none in market.

Dandies—Flat. Any quantity to be had.

Debts—plenty.

Feet—are very low.

Hats—are tolerably well up.

Honesty—in demand.

Loafers—market overstocked.

Lawyers—Inferior qualities can be had at low rates.

Legs—are advancing.

Manners—very little on hand.

Mind—active in minding other's business.

Modesty—declining.

Mud—plenty.

Shoes—are kept down.

Saddles—there is a good deal of stir-up about them.

Saddle-trees—drooping.

Virtue—in *statu quo*.

A SEAMAN'S LOG.

A seaman who had been steward of a vessel from Quebec to Dublin, entered a complaint against his captain, for having given him several beatings, of which he kept a regular log, and produced a paper, on which were the following *items* to the *credit* of the captain;

"June 5. Wind fair—captain in a *foul* bad humor; only said there was no land like the land of liberty, (meaning America) for which captain said he would take the "liberty" to give me a kick in the stern-port; did so accordingly—a cruel hard one.

"June 7. Wind changeable—was remarking that the *breeching* of a gun was out of order. Captain desired me to mind my own, at the same time his foot let me know that my back was turned towards him. Remarks—captain can't bear to hear any one say his ship be'nt the best on the station.

"June 25. Wind s. s. e. Told captain could not grind any more coffee. You can't grind, says he. No says I. Then what use have you with all *them grinders*, said he, and knocked out my front tooth. Remarks—captain would go more than an *arm's length* from a joke. D—d fond of puns. I'll *punish* him yet for them.

"July 1. Fine strong breeze; ship going ten knots an hour; only told captain the beef was any thing but sound; he told me I deserved a *sound* threshing for saying so; said I couldn't let a bit of it into my stomach, as it was as tough as a cable; then says he, you shall get your *belley-full* of a *rope's-end*; capt. too smart with an answer; will make him *smart* for it.

"July 10. Captain scolding me all day, and gave a blow on the cheek; Lord knows captain has too much jaw of his own at all times to attempt having any thing to do with another's; I'll make him laugh on the *wrong side of his mouth* for all this he shan't be always a letting his hand go *cheek by jowl* with my *chaps*; no *chap* could stand it."

The magistrate, after complimenting the complainant on the ingenuity and novelty of his log book, desired the clerk to give the steward a summons to his captain, to answer the complaint.

THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS AND HIS DAUGHTER IN-LAW.

The young and lovely Princess of Hesse Darmstadt, who has lately married the heir to the throne of all the Russias, was most agreeably surprised on her arrival at St. Petersburgh, by a delicate attention, or rather a spontaneous effusion of real heart-felt kindness, from her imperial father in-law. On being conducted to her apartments, she found them completely furnished, even to the most minute details of footstools, &c., exactly in the same style as the suite of rooms at the Castle of Darmstadt, in which she had laughed away the happy hours of childhood.

On the drawing-room table was placed a small silver bell. The Emperor requested the Princes to try whether the bell had the same sound as that which she had at Darmstadt. The Princess shook the bell, when suddenly the doors were thrown open, and all the old and faithful servants, to whom she had bid adieu, and whom she thought were then in the castle at Darmstadt, rushed in and overwheled the Princess with their acclamations of joy, at being still allowed to serve her whom they had watched over from the hour of her birth. The young Princess was overcome with joyful surprise, and poured forth in glowing terms the expression of her gratitude to her imperial father-in-law.

A FRAGMENT.

BY MRS. S. J. HOWE.

Home! 'tis to me like yonder distant star,
That floats thro' ether, like some pearly isle,
To tempt the eye that gazes from afar,
And makes the heart yearn for its gentle smile.
Oh! if some exiled spirit now there be,
Mourning on earth, her light and pearl-lit home,
Within the crystal shells beneath the sea,
Or in the planets that above us roam;
Doomed e'er to live within the sight of bliss,
Yet know that bliss may ne'er be her's again;
Oh! is there grief so exquisite as this,
Is not all woe a mockery to such pain?

Clark's Mills, O., 1842.

EMINENT MECHANICS AND ARTISTS.

JAMES FERGUSON,

Was born in 1710, at a short distance from Keith, a village in Banffshire. His father, who was a day-labourer, taught him to read and write, and sent him to school for three months at Keith.

When only seven or eight years old, having seen his father use a beam as a lever, with a prop for a fulcrum, in order to raise the roof of their cottage, which had partely fallen in, his curiosity was so much excited by the ease with which what appeared to him so stupendous an effect was accomplished, that he thought about it, and made trials, and constructed models, and drew diagrams, till he became acquainted with the chief properties of the lever, not only in its simple application, but as modified by the wheel and axle. The taste for practical mechanics thus formed continued to distinguish him through life, and, together with an equally decided taste for astronomy, conducted him in his later years to distinction and independence.

His astronomical pursuits commenced soon afterwards. His father sent him to a neighbouring farmer, who employed him in watching his sheep. While thus occupied, he amused himself at night in studying the stars, and during the day in making models of mills, spinning-wheels, and similar things. When a little older, he entered into the service of another farmer, who treated him with great kindness, and encouraged and assisted him in his astronomical studies. 'I used,' he says, 'to stretch a thread with small beads on it at arm's length between my eyes and the stars, sliding the beads upon it till they hid such and such stars from my eyes, in order to take their apparent distances from one another; and then laying the thread down on a paper, I marked the stars thereon by the beads.' 'My master,' he adds, 'that I might make fair copies in the day-time of what I had done in the night, often worked for me himself.' Mr. Gilchrist, the minister of Keith, having seen his drawings, gave him a map of the earth to copy, and furnished him with compasses, ruler, pens, ink, and paper.

At the house of Mr. Gilchrist he met Mr. Grant of Achoynaney, with whom, at the termination of his engagement with his present master, he went to reside, being then in his twentieth year. He had learnt vulgar arithmetic from books, and Mr. Grant's butler, Mr. Castley, taught him decimal arithmetic and the elements of algebra, and was about to commence instructing him in geometry when he left the employment of that gentleman.

Ferguson soon afterwards entered into the service of a miller in the neighborhood, where he was overworked, and scarcely supplied with food enough for subsistence. After remaining a year in this situation, he was engaged by Dr. Young, who was a farmer as well as a physician, and who promised to instruct him in medicine, but broke his promise, and treated him with so much harshness, that though his engagement was for half a year, he left at the quarter and forfeited the wages which were due him. A severe hurt of the arm and hand, which he had got in the doctor's service, confined him to his bed two months after his return home. During this time he amused himself with constructing a wooden clock. He afterwards made a wooden watch with a whalebone spring; and his talents having been turned in this direction, he begun to earn a little money in the neighbourhood by cleaning and mending clocks.

He was about this time invited to reside with Sir James Dunbar of Durn, and, at the suggestion of Lady Dipple, Sir James' sister, began to draw patterns for ladies' dresses: He says, 'I was sent for by other ladies in the country, and began to think myself growing rich by the money I got by such drawings; out of which I had the pleasure of occasionally supplying the wants of my poor father.' His studies in astronomy however were not neglected, and he still continued to use his thread and beads.

Besides drawing patterns, he copied pictures and prints with pen and ink; and having left the residence of Sir James Dunbar for that of Mr. Baird of Auchmeddam, Lady Dipple's son-in-law, he drew a portrait of that gentleman, which was much admired, and now began to draw likenesses from the life in Indian ink; these appeared to his patrons to be so excellent, that they took him to Edinburgh with the intention of having him regularly instructed in drawing, but a premium having been unexpectedly demanded, he boldly commenced the practice of his art at once. The Marchioness of Douglas having assisted him with her patronage, he suceeded so well, that he obtained money enough, not only to defray his own expenses, but to contribute largely to the support of his aged parents.

Though he continued to follow this profession for about twenty-six years, he seems never to have given his mind to it; and indeed, after having been two years in Edinburgh, he returned to the country with a supply of drugs with the intention of practising medicine, but soon found himself to be totally unqualified for his new occupation. He then went to Inverness, where he remained about three months. While there he drew an Astronomical Rotula, for exhibiting the eclipses of the sun and moon, which he transmitted to Professor Maclaurin at Edinburgh, who was highly pleased with it. He now returned to Edinburgh, and the Professor had the Rotula engraved, and it ran through several impressions, till, by the change of the style in 1753, it became useless. While at Edinburgh he made a wooden orrery, and delivered a lecture on it before the mathematical class.

In 1743 he resolved to go to London, where he continued his profession of drawing portraits, but devoted his leisure to astronomical pursuits.

In 1747 he published his first work, 'A Dissertation on the Phenomena of the Harvest Moon,' having been previously introduced at one of the sittings to the Royal Society by Mr. Folkes the president.

In 1748 he read lectures on the eclipse of the sun which happened in that year. From this period he began, under the patronage of the prince of Wales, afterwards George III., to deliver lectures on astronomy and mechanics: they were numerously and fashionably attended, and he now relinquished his former profession altogether. From this time to the end of his life he continued his lectures, and wrote several works on astronomy and mechanics.

Soon after the accession of Geo. III. a pension of 50*l.* a year was granted him out of the privy purse. In 1763 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1770 was chosen a member of the American Philosophical Society.

He died in 1776, aged 66, leaving an only son, to whom he bequeathed a considerable sum acquired by his lectures and his writings.

Ferguson has contributed more than perhaps any other man in Great Britan to the extension of physical science among that largest class whose circumstances preclude them from a regular course of scientific instruction. Perspicuity in the selection and arrangement of his facts and in the display of the truths deduced from them was his characteristic both as a lecturer and a writer.

THE OLIVE-TREE AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIAL ECONOMY.

The inhabitants of the gloomy little towns in the Papal States, their squalid, nothing-to-do appearance as they saunter in listless idleness about the doors, a prey to ague and ennui, are sadly in contrast to their bright sunny land and its glorious vegetation. Their country produces every thing but industry—every thing but industry; and man flourishes as a moral intelligent being only where industry is forced upon him—and civilization and well-being with industry—by natural circumstances—by the want, not the abundance of natural products. Truly the plenty of their country is their curse. Suppose every kail-yard in Scotland had a tree growing at the dyke-side, like the old pollard saughs we usually see there, and requiring as little care or cultivation, and that from this tree the family gathered its butter, suet, tallow, or an oil that answered perfectly all the household uses of these substances, either as a nutritious adjunct to daily food in their cookery, or for soap, or for giving light to their dwellings—all, in short, that our grasslands and dairies, our Russian trade, our Greenland fisheries, produce to us for household uses—would it be no blessing to have such trees? Such trees are the gift of nature to the people here in the south, and are bestowed with no niggard hand. The olive-tree flourishes on the poorest, scarpy soil, on gravelly, rocky land that would not keep a sheep on ten acres of it, and a single olive-tree will sometimes yield from a single crop nearly fifty gallons of oil. Is this a curse, and not a blessing? Look at the people of all olive-growing countries—and the question is answered. The countries which produce industry, are in a more civilized and moral condition than the countries which produce the objects of industry. No government can give encitement to industry in commeree, agriculture, or manufactures, when soil and climate produce, without any great or continuous exertions of man, almost all that industry labours for.—*Laing's Note of a Traveller.*

EXTRAORDINARY ABSTINENCE FROM FOOD.

The more that animals enjoy the qualities of youth, strength and activity, the greater is the increase and development of their parts and the greater the necessity, for an abundant supply of food. Of many individuals exposed to an absolute abstinence of many days, the young are always the first to perish. Of this the history of war and shipwreck offers in all ages, too many frightful examples. There are several instances upon record of an almost total abstinence from food for an extraordinary length of time. Captain Bligh, of the Bounty, sailed nearly four thousand miles in an open boat, with occasionally a single bird, not many ounces in weight, for the daily sustenance of seventeen people; and it is even alledged that fourteen men and women of the Juno, having suffered shipwrick on the coast of Arracan, lived twenty three days without any food. Two people first died of want on the fifth day. In the opinion of Rhedi, animals support want much longer than is generally believed. A civet cat lived ten days without food, an antelope twenty, and a very large wild cat also twenty; an eagle survived twenty eight days, a badger one month, and several dogs thirty-six days. In the memoirs of the Academy of sciences, there is an account of a bitch, which had been accidentally shut up in a country house, existing for forty days without any other nourishment, than the stuff on the wool of the matrass which she had torn to pieces. A crocodile will live two months without food, a scorpion three, a bear six, a chameleon eight, and viper ten. Vaillan had a spider that lived nearly a year without food, and was so far from being weakned by abstinence, that it immediately killed another large spider, equally vigorous, but not so hungry, which was put in with it. John Hunter inclosed a toad between two stone flower pots, and found it as lively as ever after fourteen months. Land tortoises have lived without food for eighteen months, and Baker is known to have kept a beetle in a state of total abstinence for three years. It afterwards made its escape. Dr. Shaw gives an account of two serpents which lived in a bottle without any food for five years.

ALBANY, SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1842.

☞ Without wishing to continue a controversy, we deem it necessary to say in reply to the editor of the Buffalo American, that the articles which he took to be "*mere* compilations" were not all of them such, and that those which were, had more labor bestowed upon them than many original compositions. We do not profess to *invent* either ancient or modern history, but sometimes attempt to present subjects in a new and more attractive form; and when they are found to be worth copying, wish to see them properly labelled. The Library of amusing knowledge is entirely unknown to us, nor do we comprehend his reference to English articles. We make selections from rare works, and give credits where we find them. If editors with whom we exchange ever find their articles copied into this paper without acknowledgement, they may depend that we derive them from other papers, where they have been shorn of their pedigree. To avoid all whining on this subject before the public, who are not interested in it, and at the same time in a measure to "satisfy the ends of justice," we shall return such papers as copy our articles to make up their editorials, which has been done, and such as copy whole columns without acknowledgement; second offences punishable with decapitation. We cordially extended to the American the right hand of fellowship, and have no other wish for it than that of an ample patronage.

☞ We have omitted to say, that at the close of the volume, those who order it from the first number will be furnished gratis with a title page and index, to complete the work for binding. New subscribers can yet be supplied with back numbers.

☞ Complaints occasionally reach us of the irregular receipt of the paper. We beg to state, for the information of all, that it has never failed of being published regularly, and in order that distant subscribers may receive their papers on the day of publication, it is *invariably* deposited in the post office on *Thursdays*, and despatched at the same time to agents. Bundles are liable to be misdirected, and sometimes perform tortuous routes in the mails, and possibly, though rarely, get lost. With the exception which such accidents occasion there is no delay, nor will there be to the end of the year; nor indeed then, if mechanics will second our efforts with equal promptitude on their part.

THE LAWYER AND THE LABORER, AS LEGISLATORS.

The Devil saw a lawyer killing a viper,
On a dung hill, hard by his own stable;
And the Devil smiled, for it put him in mind
Of Cain and his brother Abel.—*Coleridge.*

The dangerous fallacy that the mass of mankind are incapable of self-government, is not without its supporters, even in this country, where least of all others, they should be found. It is true the avowal is not made in plain, direct language, but it is discoverable in the common practice of electing lawyers, (men who are licensed, by law, for the palpable purpose of evading the law,) men who, in every community, are proverbial for a lamentable deficiency of moral honesty and manly consistency, to the high stations of lawgivers for the state and nation, to the exclusion of that class of men who, while they form by far the most important, in point of numbers, certainly comprise the greater proportion of intelligence and sterling integrity, we mean the working men. To this course is attributable, in no small degree, the fact that most of our legislative bodies fail to meet the approval of the public, or command their respect. Our national council, therefore, is esteemed but little better than a bear garden; its proceedings are generally boisterous and undignified, and it is not uncommon to hear of appeals from the peculiar and characteristic weapon of the lawyer, noisy declamation, to weapons of a more dangerous character. The very profession of the lawyer, as it exists at the present day, wholly unfits him for the high station he is too often, through a mistaken partiality, called to fill. This fact is evident. We have too much special pleading in our legislative halls, too much of that low cunning and management, which ignorant persons are apt to mistake for shrewdness and talent, but which are merely "tricks of trade," and such as should be confined to the practice of the ignorant and pretending empiric and pettifogger, instead of being adopted by men who profess to legal knowledge and attainment. Men are thus thrust into our national legislatures whom years of evasion and petty deceit have thoroughly schooled in duplicity and "artful dodging," and is it strange, then, that their conduct, thereafter, should be marked by the same principles and policy? Is it not an admitted fact that a man's profession or calling in life generally models his character and changes his disposition? The man who has spent years in niggard toil after gold, wresting with iron gripe the scanty pittance of the poor man from his toil hardened hand, and who, with the greedy cormorant appetite of avarice, has denied even to himself the comforts and necessaries of life, would not the same despicable course mark his conduct in case he was chosen to make laws for the government of his fellows? Would they not be loaded with grinding enactions, and burdened with taxes? Most assuredly. But such legislators are less to be dreaded in this new country than those who in their weak and vascilating policy, evasive, selfish and partial legislation, show that they have been wholly incapacitated by their former course or profession in life, for the proper discharge of those duties, that require men whose minds have enlarged by converse with nature, and perfected by self-communion and practical experience. We want men in our legislative halls who are from that majority of sound practical and intelligent citizens, who aid in the cultivation and manufacture of those gifts which Heaven has bestowed upon his intelligent creatures, instead of those who fatten and grow rich upon the disagreements and broils of their fellows, and who, under the sanction of law, and with the hollow pretence of rendering justice, *filch* from the pockets of their duped clients the hard earnings of years. Of such a character are the great majority of those who dabble, with unclean hands, in the slimy pool of the law, whose very support is derived from the fostering and encouraging of those passions and wicked feelings, which rest on men, the "trail of the serpent" that lured him from his primal purity and plunged him in irretrievable sorrow and death. It is to these feelings, the vilest of the human heart, that the lawyer owes his existence; like the mushroom that springs up in the night, he owes his very "legal life" to the rottenness that festers in the impure soil of the unclean heart. Like the thistles and thorns that came with the curse of Jehovah, so comes the "legal gentleman," one of the blights in the train of evils that man's first disobedience entailed upon the moral world. This is the high, the noble task of shielding the guilty, to turn aside by false reasoning, sleek sophistry, and distortion of fact, the sword of Justice; in short, to mar as much as possible the fair proportions of the moral law, and the God given command, "Be Just." Yet, in the face of this fact, the said useful, intelligent, influential, worthy, and profitable class, have the modesty to arrogate to themselves all the qualities which we have ironically prefixed above, and, to these it is that the people, blind to their own interests and welfare, too often depute the power that cannot be too sacredly guarded, of enacting laws for the government and prosperity of the nation. To these they delegate the power of thinking and acting, instead of selecting from their own body those who are identified in interest and feeling with themselves, and who know what would tend to promote their common prosperity.

Till the laboring class awake to a knowledge of their own importance, we cannot hope that this evil will be remedied. It is a false respect, unearned and undeserved, that they pay to the legal sprig, with all his mysterious cabala of bad Latin, worse English, and gross repetition, "confusion worse confounded." The laborer must repose more confidence in the unpolished mind of his brother laborer, which, like unpolished gold, is more valuable than the false and meretricious glitter of tinsel and paste. He must not be blinded by the affectation, the learned pomposity of the pretender, but look deeper, beneath the surface, and he will find in the rough exterior of the man who earns his bread, the sound judgment and unflinching integrity, the determination of mind and firmness of character—all the requisites necessary to constitute the earnest yet simple and plain lawgiver. Laws framed by such men would need no interpreters, but address themselves direct to the understandings of all, without the intermediate aid of the lawyer. One error of modern government consists in too much legislation, which evil would seem to owe its origin, in no small degree, to the "diffusive powers" of the class whose statesmanship we so deprecate, and who are *not* particularly noted for lack of words. "Habit is second nature," and therefore it is no wonder that the same prolixity and confusedness should mark the statutes they frame, as the forms of law they practice. In fact, no man of this class should be sent to our legislative halls, except it be on the principle of "set a rogue to catch a rogue," or in other words, to frame laws in such a manner as to baffle the possibility of evasion by others of the same craft.

More on this subject, anon.

STEVENS' FLOATING BATTERY.

We learn, from the New York Express, that the house of representatives, in committee, have concurred with the senate in making an appropriation of $250,000 for building a floating battery, of iron, for the defence of the harbor of New York. It is to be propelled by a steam engine, so placed as to be entirely out of the way of shot from an enemy, although it is intended to be shot and bomb proof. Her guns are to be large, and adapted both to shot and shell, and her burthen not less than 1500 tons.

"Mr. Stevens' vessel," says the report which has been submitted to congress on this subject, "will possess many advantages. She will scarcely present a vulnerable point to the fire of the enemy, while those constructed on the old method have a large surface exposed. The hull being low, will cause it difficult to hit her; whereas the lofty sides of a seventy-four will make her a fair

mark. Being able to approach within point blank shot, she can fire shells and grape shot into the large port holes of her antagonist, with terrific effect. The thickness of her bulwarks, (only 4½ inches,) will make a very small opening for the gun necessary, and this is to be effectually protected by a drop curtain of the same material as the sides of the ship, so that, in truth, her men will be hardly exposed to danger. She will combine all the advantages of a ship and battery, being a kind of floating iron fort, and having no vital points exposed, such as spars, sails, &c. She will be free from accidents, then, which oftentimes render a vessel unmanageable. Hollow shot or shells will burst in pieces against the walls of his steamer, which, if made of wood, they would penetrate—doing as much damage as round shot, and, if they exploded, much more."

EXPLOSION OF THE MEDORA.

The explosion of this ill-fated vessel, at the wharves of Baltimore, has excited deep and universal regret. Twenty-eight *dead* have been found, while *forty* wounded are now lingering between life and death. The cause of the accident was, probably, in the carelessness of the engineer, (since dead,) or rather, in his fatal indiscretion in placing very heavy weight on the safety valve, in order, doubtless, to make a display in going out. This has been the case before, in more instances than one, and it seems to us high time that a lesson of caution was learned. Too many of our egineers are ignorant of the tremendous power of the agent, steam, and though they are competent, perhaps, to work the engine, yet, being unscientific, hundreds of valuable lives pay the penalty of their ignorance. We are glad there seems a determination to sift this matter to the bottom, and fasten the blame where it belongs, even though his life has been lost through his indiscretion. Accidents of this kind are altogether too numerous, and thousands of human victims are annually offered up, a sacrifice to the ignorance of engineers, or the foolish desire of show in commanders.

In connection with this subject the Newark (N. J.) Advertiser says:—"The melancholy steamboat disaster which we report today, at Baltimore, reminds us of an important discovery claimed by an ingenious citizen of this city, which, in the judgment of scientific and practical judges, is likely to effect the most beneficial results. We have avoided alluding to the subject before, lest by any incautious remark we should be the means of depriving the inventor of the reward due to his ingenuity and perseverance. We are now informed, however, that the proper steps have been taken to secure his right.

He has made a series of experiments, and registered observations, which go to show that the generation of electricity constantly attends the generation of steam, and that it is the presence of this agent which produces explosion in a great majority of instances. The application of this discovery to the protection of boilers is, of course, perfectly simple, all that is necessary being a conductor to carry off the superabundant electricity. His experiments, we understand, are of a most curious and interesting kind, in a scientific, as well as in a practical and beneficial light."

STEAM BOAT VENTILATION.

We perceive that unusual attention is given to ventilating the cabins on the Rochester. Many of the boats close the windows and doors at an early hour, so as to prevent the escape of bad air, or the ingress of fresh. After partaking of a hearty supper, travellers usually crowd the cabins, where the atmosphere soon becomes stagnant by passing so often through the lungs; yet is it seldom that any one appears to regard the consequences of sleeping there during the night, when it is constantly becoming worse. In the morning, however, it is a general complaint that they did not rest well—a circumstance which seems to have happened without a cause! Strange that an overloaded stomach and a foul sleeping apartment should disturb one's repose.

In their medium state the lungs of a person of ordinary size, and in good health, contain about twelve pints of air; in perfectly easy breathing, about a pint is drawn into them at each inspiration; but from this the quantity may vary to as much as seven pints, according to the force of inspiration, increased as it is, for example, when preparing for a great muscular effort, or during singing or before coughing. About twenty respirations are made in a minute. When a cabin is thus nicely closed up, and well thronged with passengers of all sorts, it may be calculated that in one hour all the air will have been respired, and you have the satisfaction of inhaling that which your fellow passenger has just given up, carrying out a delightful system of reciprocity, which is disturbed only by the engine bell and the concussion of the boat against the dock, at an uncertain hour in the morning. If you are at all covetous, and do not happen to be afflicted with diseased lungs, retire with a piece of cavendish or pigtail in your mouth, and you have the additional pleasure of returning the common stock in no better condition than you took it.

AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

We have received the March and April numbers of this work, under one cover, containing thirty-two large pages, and embellished with several plates. We think we discover some improvement in the work, but one of the character this professes can scarcely expect to be sustained in *this* country, at *this* time, unless backed by the talents of men of sound practical experience, and of conceded reputation. This number closes the volume.

FOOD BEARING PLANTS.

VI. PRUNES.

These are a species of dried plums, of which there are many varieties. The finest are imported from France, in the south of which this fruit is very abundant. The *prunus domestica* is considered as the species which has given rise to the numercus varieties of this fruit. Its range may be stated to extend from Norway to Barbary, and from Portugal to Cashmere. Damascus was formerly celebrated for this fruit; branches of the plum are represented on Damascus medals; and many of the varieties now in cultivation still retain the name of this place. Whatever region may be the origin of them, it is to France that we are indebted more immediately for the greater part of the varieties now cultivated. In the catalogue of fruits published by the British horticultural society, 274 varieties of the plum are named. Two or three species are natives of the United States.

The plum is a robust tree, of middling stature, seemingly adapted to every kind of soil, though mostly flourishing where it is light and a little sandy. The varieties of the fruit differ in color, taste, size and form; some are not larger than cherries, while others are nearly two inches in diameter; some are oblong or ovoid, and others perfectly globular; the color is either white, green, yellow, red, purple, blue or blackish; the taste acid, austere, insipid, sweetish or aromatic; the consistence of the flesh coriaceous, hard, soft, melting, dry or watery; all however, have a smooth skin, which is always more or less covered with a fine whitish dust, easily removed by rubbing. The most esteemed of all these varieties is the green gage, or *rein claude*. It is large, of a green or slightly yellowish color, and has a juicy, greenish pulp, of an exquisite flavor. Our own country produces a variety hardly if at all inferior; viz., the Washington plum. The form of this last, and the perfume it emits before being cut, are similar to that of the green gage, but the skin is dull yellow, assuming an orange cast on the side exposed to the sun, and is more or less mottled with crimson dots; the flesh is yellow, firm, very sweet and luscious, and separates very freely from the stone.

The origin of the Washington plum is remarkable, and deserves a passing notice. The parent tree was purchased in New York market, and remained barren for several years, when it was struck by lightning and destroyed. The root afterwards thew up a number of various shoots, which were suffered to remain, and in due time produced fruit. The foliage of this tree is also among plums remarkable for its beauty.

Almost all the varieties of plums may be dried and converted into prunes; but those which are most fleshy, and best retain their quality, are preferred. Prunes now form a considerable article of commerce, and are imported chiefly from France, particularly from the port of Marseilles. Plums may also be preserved in various manners, in spirits of wine or sugar, or formed into marmalade, jellies, &c.

The sloe, *prunus spinosa*, is a thorny shrub, growing wild on most parts of Europe, and bearing a small, round, and nearly black fruit, of an extremely austere taste. The juice of this plum is frequently employed to communicate a red color and astringent flavor to wine.

The wood of the plum tree is hard, compact, traversed with reddish veins, and susceptible of a fine polish. It is sometimes employed by turners and cabinet makers, but requires to be thoroughly dried.

LIEBER.

THE SOUTH.

It is well known that the South has ever been opposed to "protection," (or, in other words, to a tariff on manufactured articles imported into this country,) whether for purposes of revenue or otherwise. This fact induced the adoption of that celebrated "compromise act," with the provisions of which every one who knows aught of the history of his country, is well acquainted. At that time every Southern press was loud in opposition to a tariff, and not a solitary voice, from the whole South, was raised in its favor; yet now we see that Southern men, as well as the Southern press, have materially altered their tone. In Baltimore, Charlestown, Mobile and New Orleans papers, we occasionally find articles advocating the same measure and policy which, but a few years since, they were unanimous in condemning. We find too, in the same papers, frequent calls for meetings on this subject, as well as the proceedings of societies having for their object the establishment of a protective tariff. The doctrine is rapidly gaining ground,

then, for experience and experiment has demonstrated the fallacy of applying an abstract principle requiring reciprocity, to regulate our intercourse with a nation which adopts an entirely opposite course. Witness the following strong language from the Louisiana American of the 9th inst:

"We take pleasure in assuring our Northern friends that we of the South are with them heart and soul, and that, having become aware of the necessity for action on this subject, our voice shall be heard through our representatives in congress, in a tone which will compel attention. Let the North look to herself. The South is a better friend on the tariff than she is. From one extremity of the Southern states to the other, the watch-word has already passed—*a protective tariff—the only true American policy.*"

Nor is this an isolated instance; listen to the following, the concluding paragraph of a long and able article on this subject, from the Baltimore Visiter. After remarking on the low price of labor in other countries, the condition of the poor, &c., it says:

"Such is the condition of the laborer where wages are low. There the rich and the titled are clothed in purple and fine linen, and fare sumptuously every day; while the poor man is poor indeed, is clothed in rags, and fed on food which brute animals in this favored land would almost refuse to swallow. Laborers of America! would you avoid a similar fate, and preserve unimpaired those privileges which you and your fathers have always enjoyed. If you would you have no alternative but to let your voices be heard in the capitol, demanding of your representatives and senators, PROTECTION FOR YOUR LABOR."

We could present more, of similar stamp, from the same source, were we so disposed, but the above will show that our assertions are not unsupported by fact. Should but a moiety of the South go for the adoption of this policy, it must be carried; for, as a reference to the past will show, the vast majority of the people of the North are its supporters. But we lament that there are many who, for no good reason, avow that they shall oppose it in all its forms; the contumacy of such can only be exceeded by their ignorance. So far do some carry their prejudices, that they would trammel the press and prevent it from discussing the matter, as it should be discussed, openly and freely, involving as it does the interests and prosperity of the country. Still, we have no fear of the result; the leaven is working, and the *right* will triumph. We trust that all our readers, whatever may be their opinions, are as honest in them as we are, in which case we know they must say *amen* to our wish.

E. G. S.

SYNOPSIS OF NEWS, ETC.

It is a fact worthy of the sober reflection of our people, that at the very moment an effort is making here to *raise* the duties on imports for the *avowed* purpose of relieving the people, a proposition has been brought before the English Parliament, by the Premier, for *lowering* the duties on imports for precisely the same object—*the relief of the people!—Rochester Rep.*

A young Irishman, a stranger, arrived at Utica last Thursday night, got drunk, and before morning was robbed of 300 sovereigns.

The whole number of cases of bankruptcy in the nothern district of New York is upwards of 1700.

A correspondent of the Boston Transcript says, that a quantity of green sage, placed in the closet, will cause red ants to disappear.

One day last week, as a child was playing on a raft, at Cincinnati, it suddenly slipped overboard; a fine Newfoundland dog which was present, sprang into the water, dived to the bottom, seized the struggling child, and safely deposited it on the raft.

There was a female applicant for the benefit of the Bankrupt Law in Philadelphia, last week. This is the first case of the kind that we have heard of.—*Pittsburg Intelligence.*

'I am terribly troubled with the prickly heat this season,' said a fat butcher in the market, the other day. 'And so am I,' responded a full shouldered vegetable woman. 'Well,' said a wag, passing, 'you are the largest specimen of a *prickley pair* that I have seen since I left Mexico.'"

Some fellows who thought themselves wags, recently hung up a skeleton of a human body, before an engine house in Rochester, New York.

The Louisa, from New Orleans for this port, brought 350 Mormons, from England, going to Nauvoo. There were lots of women and children in the crowd. Some of the families looked like thrifty people.

It is said that the city of St. Petersburgh, whose population is 600,000, is so placed that the occurrence of a strong westerly wind and high water, just at the breaking up of the ice, would at any time suffice to occasion an inundation sufficient to drown the whole population, and to convert the entire city, with all its sumptuous palaces, into a chaotic mass of ruins.

The legislature of Tennessee, at its late session, passed a law which virtually abolishes capital punishment. It gives the governor power, in all cases, to commute the punishment of death for that of imprisonmeat in the penitentiary, for life.

The Westminster Democrat says that a lady in that county, recently deceased, a short time before her death threw up from her stomach a lobster about two inches in length, apparently such as is in fresh water. When it was ejected from her stomach it was dead, having probably been destroyed by the medicine she had taken.

Creek Indians number more than 20,000 souls. The country in which they reside is not surpassed by any in the United States. Some of those Indians are large slaveholders, grow immense quanties of corn, and raise large herds of cattle.

A head properly constructed can accommodate itself to whatever pillows the vicissitudes of fortune may place under it.

The Mobile Herald contains an account of an ærial ascension, made by Mr. Hugh F. Parker, from that city, on the 31st ult. Mr. P. thinks he was six miles high, when the top of his balloon burst, and down he came. Fortunately the lower part collapsed, and formed a small parachute, and just as he was reaching the ground, the tackling caught in the upper branches of a tall tree, by which means his life was saved, though he suffered some personal injury.

The Traveller may now breakfast in New York, and dine next day in Richmond, Va., or sip his tea in Petersburgh. Or *vice versa*, the Traveller may dine in Washington, and take his next dinner at an early hour in New York.

In portions of Ohio, the culture of the grape, for manufacture of wine, is receiving great attention. A late writes upon the subject thinks the day is not far distant when the Ohio will rival the Rhine in the wine it will produce.

The Mormons have ten churches in the New England states.

The Toronto Patriot estimates the amount of American salt imported into Canada during the last season at 48,000 bushels.

The receips on the Western Railroad have risen to $30,000 a month, and the stock has advanced 14 per cent, within the last fortnight.

It is estimated, says the Rochester Democrat, that there is now upon the ground one third more wheat in this country than at any former period.

A lot of 1000 evergreen trees, brought from Maine, were sold at Cincinnati on the 2d inst.

The almost incredible number of *three hundred and twenty thousand* herrings were taken from the Awagam river, at Wareham, last Saturday afternoon. These fish, it is well known, ascend the stream at this season of the year in immense shoals, and are easily taken by the fishermen with what are called "scoop nets."

The silk house which failed in N. Y., a short time since, is indebted near $70,000 to a Philadelphia importer for two cargoes of silk.

Eighteen thousand three hundred barrels of flour, it is said, are in store along the harbor of Buffalo.

The consumption of tobacco in England, mostly for smoking, last year was 22,000,000 lbs; in 1840 it was 23,130,000. The greater part is adulterated.

Mrs. Trollope is about to commence a new book on America in Colburn's New Monthly. It is to be in the form of a story, and will be entitled 'The Barnabys in America.'

About forty American ladies, and thirty gentlemen were recently presented at the court of the French King.

There is a boy in Salem so bright that is mother has to look at him through a piece of stained glass!

If every one who preaches democracy is a true democrat, it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to find an aristocrat in christendom.

Out of twenty-two applications in Baltimore in one week, for the benefit of the bankrupt law, twelve of the applicants owe less than 50 dollars!

It is computed that the glory of Napoleon was purchased at the expense of 6,000,000 human beings.

MINIATURE PAINTING ON IVORY.

D. WAGNER, Miniature Painter, has taken a room in Down's New Building, corner of State and South Market streets, where he respectfully invites the citizens to call and see his specimens. This room is No. 22, 3d floor, entrance from either State or Market sts.

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5thly. To enable gentlemen of the Law to become well acquainted with the nature of those patent schemes which are so apt to give rise to litigation.

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MISCELLANY.

SAMUEL SCRAGGLE.

A tailoring wight *Sam Scraggle* was,
Of Washington's wide city;
And *Rachel Ross* he loved, because
This Rachel Ross was pretty.
Love's a delicious thing, you know,
It makes one feel all over so.

But Rachel Ross did not love him,
Which griev'd him very badly;
His eyes in tears of woe did swim,
And sorrow sunk him sadly.
How much do people undergo,
From wounds of Master Cupid's bow!

Like his own needle did the dart
Prick him, his life ribs under;
His gizzard it did swell and smart,
As if 't would burst asunder.
Ah! love 's a wounding thing, you know,
It makes one feel all over so.

His heart was hotter than his goose,
As still he thought about her;
I see, he cried, it is no use,
For I shall die without her.
Never was creature troubled so,
Since Noah's flood, long time ago.

In Georgetown, Tom the butcher dwelt,
And he was one of twenty;
And Rachel mighty wishes felt,
To have fresh meat a plenty.
Love's very pleasant food, you know,
But beef and lamb are better though.

Now jealousy had seiz-ed Sam,
Which like the grave is cruel;
Says he I do not care a d——,
I'll kill Tom—in a duel.
For those that love will fight, you know,
And Samuel's courage proves it so.

But Tom the butcher, having fired
A loaded pistol never,
Had choice of weapons, and desired
To fight Sam with a cleaver.
The man that's challeng-ed, you know,
With what he likes may fight his foe.

But Sam would only fight with ball,
And so that matter ended;
He then went to the capitol,
And to the top ascended.
Oh, Lord! how despera e he did grow!
How strange that love should work him so.

He thought he down himself would throw,
But feared he 'd after rue it;
And folks would all laugh at him so,
He swore he would not do it.
Indeed, much wisdom doth it show,
To "look before you leap," you know.

Some warlike berth he ax-ed for,
A naval station gain-ed;
He went and join'd the marine corps,
To cure what him so pain-ed.
For very well did Samuel know,
That if he died he 'd stop his woe.

A cold now Tom the butcher took,
Which soon a fever brought on;
And life next Thursday him forsook,
'T was what he had not thought on.
A cold 's a dreadful thing, you know,
By cold or fever, pop we go.

Sam Scraggle then to Rachel said,
In sober, doleful ditty,
Since Tom the butcher now is dead,
Won't you on me have pity?
For Samuel Scraggle did not know,
What change her mind might undergo.

Says she, I 'll never be your wife,
So do n't you ax me, prithee;
I would not have you, 'pon my life,
And eight more tailors with ye.
The ladies always owe to show,
Their cruelty to men in woe.

Then grevious-ly did Samuel grunt,
Grew sick and hourly sigh-ed,
But got, 'fore long, the better on 't,
Or else he might have di-ed.
When love begins to better grow,
'Tis not so bad to bear, you know.

Rachel in time did change her mind,
Lest she should die a virgin;
To marry Sam she felt inclined!
Indeed, 't was very urging.
That love 's capricious this doth show—
What changes it doth undergo!
Pray, ladies, hav'nt you found it so?

Says Sam—I WONT—in great disdain,
Lord how she was surpris-ed—
She learnt, too late, that tailoring men
Are not to be despis-ed.

Love 's a strange kind of thing, I trow,
It makes one feel all over so;
It moveth us all to and fro;
It wounds the high and smites the low,
As Bonaparte's match doth show;
And his old wife's sad overthrow;
And Rachel's unexpected woe;
And Samuel Scraggle's pride—also.

A countryman being desired to help a member of Parliament out of a ditch, said he had nothing to do with *state* affairs.

MY COUSIN'S VISIT TO THE NAIL WORKS.

Say have you seen a nail machine?
'Tis all the people's wonder O;
It thumps away both night and day,
And makes a noise like thunder O.
The cranks and cams, and battering rams,
Do keep such pelting, pouncing O,
That all the ground is shook around,
By reason of the jouncing O.

Now you must know, that I'd a lot of cousins, that "comed all the way down from Varmount to larn the fashions, and to see and hear all the cute and curious thingumajigs." "By golly," says Zachary Diggins, "I insign to see the nail works if it costs me my fireball colt. Uncle Fife told me as how they had ten thousand rattle traps, and kept a tarnation sort of a

Rattlety bang, and clatterty clang,
And rattlety, clatterty bang they go.

So off we sat with Tom and Bet,
Young Stephen Bump and Dolly O,
And Jo and Josh, and Billy Magosh,
Ned Shacklefoot the jolly O,
And Susan Judd and 'Mima Nudd,
[They rode behind on pillions O,]
And Sarah Slack—they made such a clack,
You'd thought they were a million O.

We scampered along through mud and mire quite in the style of the fashionables, till we were brought up all standing before the nail works, and were soon escorted very genteely into the very bowels of this great establishment, when out squealed cousin Betty Diggins, as loud as a shriek owl, "O the wonderation, what a nation sight of jiggermarees!" "Yes, faith," says Ned, "and as thick as seven bumblebees in a punkin blow." "Rabbit ye, Bets, and be darned and hold your tongue there," bawled Zachery. "O, the old sneezer, how they shell 'em out," cried Josh. And then cousin Dolly, the school dame, she was all sensitive. "O, the lurry and livin' jingo!" said Doll, "Ill be souzed in a butter tub if I ever seed such curiosity thingums in all my born days. Fags and catnip! I'm all over goose pimples." "Flamation," sung out Tom, "how they chop the iron up!" Then Bill taking his turn exclaimed, "Uts bobs and butakins! uncle Jeremy's threshing mill's no touch to it. Take care Stephen or you'll have your gizzard ripped out by the smashers there, as quick as a pig can crack a walnut!" Now all this was a very delightful accompaniment to the *effetuoso* of the whirling machinery, as it very delicately touched off its

Rattlety bang, and clatterty clang,
And rattlety, clatterty bang we go.

Then up went Jo, who thought as how
He'd like to try the riggle O,
But all his jerks and awkward quirks
Soon set them in a giggle O.
"Poh, Jo, you cool," says Shacklefoot,
"You'd better come to balting O,
And stop the noise of these rude boys
By paying of the malting O."

By the way, it has been slanderously reported that some of the pretty girls got a little fuddled withal; but, mind ye, I'll never be hanged for defamation. All I can tell ye about the matter is, that it set the de'il into their slippery tongues, whose confounded gibberjabber outrattled and drowned the deep tonation of the machinery with their everlasting

Clickity clack, and lickity whack,
And whickity, clickety clack we go.

Then came the clerk, a brisk young spark,
All bowing to each lady O;
And questions all, both great and small,
To answer he was ready, O;
The girls were pleased, for them he squeezed,
(They hardly could deny him O,)
But Sarah Slack she got a smack,
Unless they did belie them O.

This little bit of an animal, the clerk, was a sort of a would-be dandy; having the bottom of his waist pinched up to the size of a pint pot, and thus resembling in shape what we call a mud wasp. He wore eleven capes to his coat—and had over the place where his brains should be, a jocky cap of catskin, and carried a mock gold watch with two seals, each as big as a permium turnip. O, these dear sweet creatures, are always vastly attentive to the ladies. They may be easly distinguished from other animals by the above description, and their singular gait which is a sort of a

Tippity bob, and hippity bob,
'O' I am all the tippity—O'

So round we went with minds intent
On all this mighty working, O,
'Twas tarnal queer, such wond'rous gaer
And O such jams and jerking, O!
But come, says, Tom, let's strike for home,
To night you know's the dancing O,
O yes, cried Zach, if we go back,
It's time we were a prancing O.

So each lad of us took his lass, and then in comely mode we all departed. It was, however, thought by most of the ladies, that Mr. Tippy showed too much attention to Miss Sary Slack, considering that Miss Sary was no better; and to be sure I will say no worse, than the rest of them. But the school-dame, we all thought, was quite too severe on the occasion, for she declared, by the jumpin Moses, that such obnoxious indecencies ought to be carried to be highest court of junkiture, for they quite annihilated all satisfaction of the visitation. But all hard tho'ts and hard words were soon disipated by the frolic and fun on the road, as we jovially drove home with

Merrily, ho! whisp dobbins, go O!
Galloping gaily and cheerily, O.

Then home we got by gallop and trot,
In season for the junket, O,
And there was Sam, and Kary Cram,
And cousin David Plunket, O,
Now bark around the cheering sound
Of Peg and Pere's scraping, O!
In merry plight we spend the night
In frolicking and capering, O,

Now as this was probably the last time we should all be together under such pleasant circumstances, we were resolved to keep it up till the cows come home, as cousin Himy said. And to be sure so we did right merrily, with "Hunt the slipper," "Barrel of sugar," "Jack on the green," "Jo Bunker," &c. Here, however, was none of your dandy pigeon-wings, shawshees or rigermadoons, but the good old-fashoned,

Riggiety bump, and shuffiety thump,
And shuffiety, scuffiety clump we go!

VALUE OF A GOOD TRADE.

A conjurer and a tailor once happened to converse together.

"Alas!" cries the tailor, "what an unhappy, poor creature am I! If people should ever take it into their heads to live without clothes, I am undone; I have no other trade to have recourse to." "Indeed, friend, I pity you sincerely," replied the conjurer; "but, thank heaven, things are not quite so bad with me; for if one trick should fail, I have a hundred tricks more for them yet. However, if at any time you are reduced to beggary, apply to me, and I will relieve you." A famine overspread the land: the tailor made a shift to live, because his customers could not do without clothes;—but the poor conjurer with his hundred tricks, could find none that had money to throw away. It was in vain that he promised to eat fire, or to vomit pins; no single creature would relieve him, till he was at last obliged to beg from the very tailor whose calling he had formerly despised.

BURLINGTON.

Among the old manuscripts in the Franklin Library at Philadelphia, is a history of Burlington, N. Jersey, written some 150 years since, by a Lady, one of its first settlers. 'It is,' says a letter in the New Haven Herald, 'a plain narrative of the hardships of these pioneers, who for a while lived in caves and palisade huts. But amid all their privations, unlike the children of Canaan, they forgot not the God of their fathers, but received, their small meed of blessings with gratitude. Their ship '*The Shield of Stocton*," was the first that sailed so high up the Delaware. Philadelphia was not then (1678) in existence, and some of them on passing its site, exclaimed 'what a fine place for a city.'

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